Strategic alliances with Bangladesh in textile sector

2364. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have decided to consider a strategic alliance in the textile sector to tap the potential after the end of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement on January 1,2005;

(b) whether this decision was taken after meeting between the Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Board of Investment and the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry;

(c) whether Bangladesh delegation visited India recently; and

(d) if so, agreements reached between the two countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) A high level delegation led by Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Board of Investment met Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry on 13th July 2004. During this informal meeting, discussions were held on the desirability of forming strategic alliances in the textile sector so as to fully realise the potential in the post-MuIti Fibre Arrangement scenario. Discussions were also held on various other issues required to be addressed for enhancing trade and investment flows between the two countries.

Financial assistance to weavers

2365. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a one time financial assistance scheme for all weavers in the country;

(b) whether Government have maintained a register of all weavers in the country for this one time financial assistance;

(c) if so, how many weavers have registered with the Government;

(d) what steps are proposed to extend financial assistance like writing off loans, financial assistance for families where a suicide has been committed and the entire rest of incentives being given to farmers and other sections of society; and